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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19484 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1997 • SHVAT 9, 5757 • 8 RAHADAN 1417

Maccabi TA over Charleroi 87-70
Page 21

Special Tu Bishvat issue
The Magazine



Mel Gibson gets mad
Time Out

Index

- Business15
- News in Focus9
- Opinion6
- Shabbat Shalom13
- Sports21
- World News8

IDF begins Hebron redeployment

Knesset OKs Hebron pact

By LIAT COLLINS

After a 12-hour debate, the Knesset yesterday endorsed the Hebron agreement by 87 to 17, with one abstention. Mofedet decided against filing a no-confidence motion and late last night a roll-call vote was held only on the agreement itself, including the accompanying documents.

Two votes on the faction statements by Mofedet and the National Religious Party, which both opposed the agreement, failed by a large majority.

Those who voted against the agreement included: the NRP MKs - ministers Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy; and MK Avraham Stern, absented themselves; Mofedet, Likud's Ze'ev Begin, Haim Dayan, Uzi Landau, Moshe Peled, Michael Kleiner, David Re'em and Ruby Rivlin; and Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs Michael Nudelman and Yoni Stern. United Torah Judaism's Shmuel Halpern abstained. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon was absent.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein supported the agreement in the Knesset, although they voted against it in the cabinet Wednesday night.

In his concluding statement, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said he believes the decision will be seen as the right one in the current reality and that he hopes to see future peace agreements with the Palestinians and with Arab states.

The special session opened at 11 a.m. with a statement by the prime minister, attended by President Ezer Weizman, whose presence emphasized the fact that a fateful debate was taking place.

Netanyahu stressed the idea of the "different goals" of his government compared to its Labor predecessor.

"We're committed to the written agreements; we are not bound by the spoken word [of the previous government.] Our goals and phi-

Who will replace Begin?
Page 2

losophy are completely different," he declared. "We do not want to take the Jewish settlement out of Hebron. We want to preserve and consolidate it. We don't want to cut ourselves off from Hebron; we want to stay in Hebron."

Netanyahu added that the negotiations on the agreement had ensured the inclusion of clauses to make this possible.

"The agreement today is, of course, much broader and much more detailed.... We ensured buffer zones; we made sure to distance the guns; we ensured IDF presence in the [hills] above the Jewish settlement and via joint patrols on the [main] routes."

He called the Hebron Jewish residents "our brothers and sisters" and stressed the importance of the City of the Forefathers as "the rock of our existence."

"I can state with confidence, without a doubt, that this is a better, safer, more responsible agreement than the one we received [from Labor]," he said.

Netanyahu said Israel had insisted on three principles during the negotiations on Hebron: reciprocity; that Israel would be the sole determinant of the further redeployments; and that the time frame allow room for maneuvering.

"We're using the space we have in this agreement to attain our goals: to preserve the unity of Jerusalem; to ensure the security areas necessary to protect the state; to stand firm on the right of Jews to settle in their land and offer the Palestinians reasonable arrangements of self-rule without the sovereign rights that could endanger the State of Israel."

The prime minister was frequently heckled, noticeably by MK Eli Goldschmidt (Labor).

"You're a big boy. Stop blaming your parents," Goldschmidt said when the premier started to talk of the poor inheritance Labor had left the new government.



Soldiers attach the hook of a crane to a guardpost in Hebron yesterday, preparing to lift it onto a truck and move it out of the city as part of the IDF pullback.

And an almost comical interlude occurred when MK Dalia Itzik (Labor), busy distributing copies of Netanyahu's speech as opposi-

tion leader on the Oslo Accords, started to heckle him from the floor, causing Netanyahu to counter.

"Dalia Itzik is Indira Gandhi and Golda Meir combined," he said.
Continued on Page 2

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Hundreds of Palestinians, some shouting "Hebron is ours!" cheered as army trucks laden with equipment rumbled, horns blaring, out of the IDF military headquarters, as Israel began the long-delayed redeployment in Hebron.

Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, arrived at the military headquarters late last night. Palestinian security men had worked for several hours before his return to keep local residents away from the building.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced at a press conference last night that the redeployment would be completed by this afternoon, before Shabbat.

Some 40 Jews marched to Yisba's Tomb to recite psalms and hold a prayer vigil. The army later declared all areas to be handed over to the Palestinians a closed military zone, banning entry by Israeli civilians.

At the Palestinian Child Arts Center, some 200 Palestinian policemen crowded into a small hall to don their new navy-blue uniforms. They stood in front of mirrors, adjusting their berets and flattening their creases, waiting for the orders to move.

Outside, a plainclothes officer from Rajoub's Preventive Security Service handed out dozens of German-made MP-5 submachine guns to security men.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan said that while permission had been granted to remove equipment from the bases to be handed over to the Palestinians, the soldiers were to remain until the order was given to vacate them.

That was expected to come following the Knesset approval of the Hebron agreement. It was not clear last night whether the soldiers would begin pulling out during night.

"The moment we get the order we will try to carry out the redeployment as quickly and as properly as possible and transfer to the Palestinians the places which the IDF is to vacate," Dayan said.

The IDF late last night issued nearly a dozen administrative orders against right-wing activists in Kiryat Arba and Hebron.

The orders, according to Itamar Beo-Gvir, one of the heads of Kach's successor organization, the

Stormy PA Council meeting, Page 3

Row over letters of assurance, Page 20

Ideological Front, ranged from orders for house arrest to forbidding travel to Hebron.

Word of the impending orders was leaked out beforehand, and many of those for whom the orders were intended were not at home when the police came to deliver them. Among those to have received an order was Baruch Marzel, who left home before the police arrived.

Marzel, talking from a hiding place "somewhere near Hebron," said that the orders are unnecessary, since he knows of no plans to try and disrupt the Hebron redeployment or provoke the Palestinians. Marzel said the orders were just a way for the GSS to "cover themselves" in case there is an incident in the city.

Marzel said that when the police came to his home in Tel Rumeida to deliver the order, his wife tore it up.

Dayan and Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir, commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, met late last night in Hebron's new District Coordinating Office to discuss the transfer of 80 percent of the city to the Palestinians. The IDF commanders reportedly asked the Palestinians to order their forces to refrain from celebrating by firing their guns into the air and burning the Israeli flag.

Dayan said the list of the 400 Palestinian policemen who are to take up positions in the city was given to the IDF and that each policeman had passed a security check.

Earlier in the day, joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols held dry runs in the city, senior security sources said.

Hebron has been under heavy IDF guard lately and military sources said patrols were increased to prevent any attempts by extremists on either side from disrupting the redeployment.

At the military headquarters, soldiers loaded trucks with cement blocks, desks, and gas balloons, and dismantled watchtowers and even the front gate to prepare for

Continued on Page 2

New 'Post' appointments

F. David Radler, president and CEO of Hollinger International and chairman of the board of *The Jerusalem Post*, announced the appointment today of Yehuda Levy as vice chairman-*Jerusalem Post*.

Radler also announced the appointment of Norman Spector as president and publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*, reporting to the chairman. Both appointments take effect May 1. Full report, Page 5.

Massive search for Kahalani's mother

By RAINE MARCUS

Central District police, led by Cmdr. Zev Even-Han, launched a massive search yesterday evening for Sara Kahalani, the mother of Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

Sara Kahalani, 78, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, was last seen leaving the Margot Old Age Home in Ness Ziona, where she resides, at 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

When she failed to return, it was reported to police, who, together with volunteers, launched a search for her at around 5:30 p.m.

Some 120 police and volunteers searched the surrounding fields and citrus groves for the woman. Shopping malls and residential areas were also searched. A helicopter also joined in the operation.

Kahalani himself left the Knesset to participate in the search and Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz and other police brass joined in.

Sara Kahalani is 1.6m. tall, heavily built, has short hair and was wearing yellow slacks, a beige sweater, and slippers. Anyone who thinks they may have seen her is asked to call the nearest police station.

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Silvan Shalom likely to assume Begin's science portfolio

By SARAH HONIG

Science Minister Ze'ev Begin's resignation will take effect at mid-day Saturday, with Silvan Shalom being touted as most likely to assume the portfolio.

Shalom, along with Tzahi Hanegbi and Limor Livnat, was one of the first to support Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's quest for the Likud leadership. Shalom refused to comment on the matter yesterday.

Meanwhile, MK Michael Eitan, who is eager to win the appointment, noted his own high placing in the Likud primaries, while MK Shaul Amur warned that "the government will face dire consequences if I am not appointed."

Just before 1 p.m. yesterday, Begin dispatched a one-line letter that said: "I hereby tender my resignation from the government."

Begin demonstratively took his seat among the Knesset back-benebers during yesterday's debate on the Hebron agreement, even though a minister's resignation does not take effect until 48 hours after his or her resignation letter is submitted.

Though other ministers who voted against the agreement Wednesday night said they would remain in the government, Begin said that he could not.

"I respect them for their decision but I personally think otherwise and more importantly I feel otherwise," Begin said. "Collective responsibility would oblige me to support the government's decision and I cannot do so. I said that when I cannot serve in full faith I will step down and now the time has come."

Begin said he is not disenchanted with Netanyahu, for whom he campaigned.

"I don't feel I made a mistake in the last elections and I don't make light of the difficulties the prime minister encountered upon taking



Ze'ev Begin addresses the Knesset yesterday, telling why he opposes the Hebron agreement. (Sass Hara)

office," he said.

"But this is not personal. It is a difference of opinion.

"The greatest danger is inherent in the original Oslo Accords. We will hand over more and more slices of our homeland to terrorists who will make them havens for terror and we will make the situation far more difficult for ourselves when all this will blow up. The explosion will indeed come, unless we utterly capitulate."

He noted that just as he had been right in the case of the failed appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general - he was the only minister to vote against the appointment - so the other ministers "will come to understand the reality of the agreement they have now approved and if they don't understand, Arafat will explain it to them."

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Begin's closest ally in the government, expressed regret over Begin's resignation.

He said he had "known in advance what Benny planned to do and all my attempts to dissuade him were in vain. I agree with Begin about the dangers inherent in the Oslo process but they are a fait accompli and we must now make the best of a bad situation. Without Benny this government will be different and none the better in quality, because Benny is a rare breed."

Netanyahu's oest toughest critic inside the government's Likud contingent might now be Livnat, despite her decision to support the Hebron deal in the Knesset.

Like Begin, she also said she does not regret supporting Netanyahu in the elections.

"I would wholeheartedly do it again despite the disagreement now," she said. "Netanyahu is indeed better for the Jews than [Shimon] Peres or now [Ehud] Barak. The trouble is with the disaster of the original Oslo Accords."

Likud members attack PM

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave Likud-Gesher-Tsomet MKs freedom to vote according to their consciences and not party lines on the Hebron agreement yesterday, but told the fact that the important thing is for the whole party to present a united front after the vote and before the negotiations on the permanent arrangements.

He did not rule out the possibility of the Palestinians raising problems over the interpretation of the further redeployments. He also clarified that "mid-1998" does not refer to a specific date but to a period including June, July and August. He said this appears in an accompanying letter which US chief negotiator Dennis Ross wrote to Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh.

The Likud faction meeting, most of which was open to the press, ranged in tone from congratulatory - at the entrance of Foreign Minister David Levy whose son got married on Wednesday - to bitter, when the MKs got down to business.

MK Michael Kleiner was the first to attack the premier saying: "My feeling is the only thing we have managed to achieve is an 11-month delay."

MK Ruby Rivlin asked whether the process could lead to any outcome other than a Palestinian state and Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled frequently interrupted faction chairman Michael Eitan and the prime minister.

Netanyahu assured Rivlin that Israel would not "sit on its hands" if the Palestinians declare a state.

Ze'ev Binjamin Begin, having submitted his resignation from the post of science minister, sat quietly at the back of the room. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Eitan both called on him to reconsider his resignation.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who voted against the agreement in the cabinet on Wednesday, asked Netanyahu what was written in the letter the US secretary of state sent to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. The prime minister

said the US had told him it sent similar letters in content and wording to Israel and the Palestinians.

Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said the government was talking about reciprocity but not taking action even against Palestinian violations in Jerusalem.

It was Netanyahu's former rival Levy who came to the prime minister's defense in an speech in which he called on the Likud MKs to consider the alternative: a government led by Shimon Peres handling the talks on the permanent negotiations.

Other factions also held meetings yesterday, the National Religious Party decided their ministers would be absent for the vote and the MKs would vote against. The NRP will reconsider its partnership in the coalition every three months according to the government's actions promoting settlement in Judea, Samaria and Gaza and construction in Jerusalem.

Tsomet leader Raphael Eitan

told his faction that he would vote in favor because "the moment the majority has decided, the minority has two options to respect the decision of the majority or to leave the government." He said if the government had to depend on Labor's vote, the government would be forced to follow a leftist policy.

Labor also met several times, although leader Shimon Peres did not break off a visit to the US for

Knesset votes on previous peace agreements	
Camp David Agreement, September 27, 1978	In favor: 57 Against: 19 Abstentions: 37
Egyptian Peace Treaty, March 21, 1979	In favor: 93 Against: 18 Abstentions: 7
Oslo I, September 24, 1993	In favor: 61
Oslo II, October 3, 1995	In favor: 57 Against: 33

Compiled by Liat Collins

the debate and vote. Most Labor MKs described the agreement as the end of Revisionism in the Likud and a posthumous victory for Yitzhak Rabin.

MK Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the party leadership, said the faction should vote for the agreement. "We owe it to our voters." But he warned of the possible problems if the US becomes the only interpreter of the agreement.

MK Ephraim Oshaya disagreed, saying a vote in favor of the agreement would only promote the Netanyahu government for another four years. He described the prime minister as "a swindler."

Morocco praises accord

By DAVID RUDGE and news

Morocco's King Hassan told Prime Minister Netanyahu yesterday he hopes the Hebron agreement will lead to a just and durable peace in the Middle East. An Israeli official said this was the first direct contact the king had made with Netanyahu since he was elected prime minister last May.

The Moroccan News Agency issued an open message last night to the prime minister in the name of the monarch: "It is with real satisfaction that we received the news of the agreement, which took place between yourself and President Yasser Arafat... We are pleased and advanced by the understanding which this agreement will promote and we wish that the future - relieved of the past - will finally open serious prospects for a just and durable peace."

Hassan told Arafat in a separate message he hopes the accord would open the way for Palestinians to

take the remaining steps leading to the realization of the aspirations for which they have fought.

Meanwhile, Lebanese leaders expressed concern over the Hebron accord yesterday, saying Israel might put political and military pressure on Lebanon to try and reach security arrangements over the south, now that its attention is no longer centered on the Hebron issue.

President Elias Hrawi was quoted in Beirut newspapers as calling on security forces to "keep your eyes open in case of acts of sabotage like those Lebanon and Damascus." Similar comments were made by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouweh. "Israel might now feel comfortable enough to put pressure on Syria and Lebanon," Bouweh was quoted as saying.

Senior Hizbullah sources criticized the Palestinians for signing the Hebron accord, which they said had "buried the dreams of an independent Palestine."

David Makovsky contributed to this report.

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Winning cards and numbers

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the jack of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 087555 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 156740 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets ending in 065366, 603655, 284405, 127668, 487975, 131519, 166337 and 393437 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 73623, 17026, 48119, 10151, 77214, 26366, 84886, 93696, 00373, 31245, 91183, 56093, 96257, 69551, 26450, 98768, 01592, 07936 and 74258 all were good for NIS 1,000. Those ending in 683, 815, 725 and 985 were good for NIS 100; in 26, 85, 90 or 51, NIS 30; in 63 or 80, NIS 20; and in 3 or 5 NIS 10.

KNESSET

Continued from Page 1

"She always has something to say... Every time she chirps something new."

MK Ehud Barak, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, responded to the premier for the opposition. The focus of his response was on the legacy of assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"From today, you are leading the Oslo Accords in deeds and not just words. For this you deserve and have our praise. Moreover, every additional step you take courageously, responsibly, and with integrity in this direction, will be accompanied by our blessing and support," Barak said.

"Today is also a day of victory: victory of the peace camp; victory of the way of the Labor movement; victory for the foundations laid by Shimon Peres; and victory for the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, may he rest in peace, the man whose vision, courage and integrity moved the wheels of the peace process, the beginning of the process of separation from the Palestinian people, and our focussing on Galilee, the Negev, and the [underprivileged] neighborhoods."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid also placed the emphasis in his speech on Rabin, calling on Netanyahu to sign the agreement with the slain premier's pen, "because you are signing with his spilled blood."

IDF

Continued from Page 1

the withdrawal. The British-era fortress was a bustle of activity last night as women soldiers piled onto armored Safari transports, like those used in Lebanon, for their final ride out.

At the Zehavit Junction, soldiers stood guard as a crane removed an army observation tower from atop a roof overlooking the intersection.

During the day, heavy rains and thick fog kept most people indoors. In the casbah, a few merchants huddled around a fire in a barrel, stoking it with wood as they watched soldiers patrol.

But by nightfall, the rain slackened and many Arab residents took to the street and headed to mosques for prayers after breaking the Ramadan fast.

Anticipation among many Palestinians' turned to joy as they saw tanks pulling out of the military headquarters.

"Yalla! Yalla! Yalla!" shouted young boys. Others waved large photos of Yasser Arafat and cars honked their horns as stone-faced soldiers stood, their weapons poised, in vehicles heading for their new quarters.

"Of course I will celebrate, but the happiness won't be complete until the Israelis evacuate all of the city," said Mohammed Mayalteh, a 35-year-old merchant.

Herb Keiron and Tim contributed to this report.

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Palestinian police examine their new uniforms at their headquarters south of Hebron yesterday.

PA councilors decry lack of debate

By JON IMMANUEL

While the Knesset was furiously debating the Hebron protocol yesterday morning, members of the Palestinian Authority Legislative Council were furiously demanding to know why no representative of the PA's executive had come to Ramallah to address them.

Several members walked out of the meeting in protest before Saeb Erekat, the chief PA negotiator and a member of the council, hurried over to give them copies of the protocol in English. There was no official Arabic translation for those who did not understand English.

The Oslo Accords give the 88-member council no jurisdiction to approve or disapprove agreements between Israel and the PA, but some of the councilors said that, since they are the elected representatives of the people, they should be treated with the respect the people deserve.

"It is more than lack of communication. The council should have

been informed, but it was not. The council ought to know what takes place," said Ziad Abu Amr, a Gaza independent who walked out first, followed by Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi and others.

A recent poll of the Palestinian Center for Research and Studies asked 1,307 Palestinians whether they had any contact with their representatives directly, by mail, or by telephone, and 91.5 percent said no. Only 10.7% evaluated the councilors' performance as "very good." The PA executive (19%), the police (28%), and Arafat himself (40%) all got better marks.

An earlier vote in Gaza by the Palestinian leadership - about 50 members of the cabinet, council, and PLO executive - was considered representative enough. Council member Abdel-Jawad Salah, who considers himself in the democratic opposition despite being the agriculture minister, was one of the few who did oppose it in Gaza on Wednesday. He told the Voice of Palestine

yesterday, "Hebron was partitioned, the Israelis are in charge of civilian and administrative affairs [in H-2]. There is recognition that the Ibrahimiyeh Mosque [Tomb of the Patriarchs] is Jewish."

Hebron was not the only issue on which the council felt bypassed. The PA, yet to allow the council to ratify a constitution, apologized for a third time for not submitting its budget as required under the unratified constitution.

Salah Taamari, another popular democratic opposition member, suggested a vote of no-confidence in the finance minister. Nobody knows if it passed and nobody thought it mattered if it did.

Some of those most opposed to the Hebron agreement precisely because it was imposed by superior force see Israel as a shining light in the more important matter of democratic procedures.

"People are impressed by Israeli democracy, especially when it comes to transparency and accountability," Abu Amr said.

BACKGROUND

Hebron faces tricky civil spats

By JON IMMANUEL

With attention focused on settler security in Hebron, little notice has been given to the civilian arrangements, which are vastly more detailed in the new protocol than they had been in the Oslo 2 accord.

But these details, rather than clarifying matters, may mean more potential points of conflict and misunderstanding now that things have been written down, they are subject to different interpretations. For example, while the protocol says that the height of new Arab buildings 30 meters and 100 meters from Jewish homes must be limited to two and three stories respectively, it says nothing about the height of Jewish buildings.

"The civil administration can authorize 20 stories added to Beit Hadassah if it wants," said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for outgoing government coordinator in the territories Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor.

The relevant clause says that "civil powers and responsibilities ... relating to Israelis and their property shall continue to be exercised by the Israeli military government."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe denies this gives Israel a carte blanche on construction. While there can be discussions, "No Israeli building can take place without municipal permission because the division of the city into H-1 and H-2 does not divide the city's municipal authority."

"Responsibility" is thus taken to mean that Israel is responsible for ensuring that the settlers cooperate with the municipality. Other articles make the government the settlers' guarantor. For example, to ensure that settlers receive prompt service from the municipality when their water pipes burst, the PA is obliged to finance serving Israeli dwellings "as a top priority" if the government offers to pay for the work.

To ensure that the PA does not plunge settlers into darkness, the PA must give the Israeli District Liaison Office 48 hours' notice of any plans which would affect Israelis' daily lives, like cutting electricity and water or blocking roads for maintenance.

Cutting off the settlers' utilities as an act of intimidation is considered unlikely, as Israel could retaliate by cutting off power and telephone communications to the Gaza Strip.

Clinton thanks King Hussein, Mubarak for help on Hebron

By HILLET KUTTLER and news agencies

US President Bill Clinton yesterday thanked Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for their support for the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians on Hebron.

National Security Adviser-designate Samuel Berger told network radio reporters that Clinton made morning phone calls to the

two leaders thanking them for their roles.

Berger said the Hebron deal would not have been possible without Hussein's intervention and Mubarak's support. Hussein kept talks between Israel and the Palestinians from collapsing last weekend with a compromise proposal.

Mubarak also had a telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafez Assad yesterday.

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Mordechai saves Polish deal

By STEVE RODAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai resolved a tiff last night that appeared to have jeopardized a potentially lucrative Polish military contract, when he rescheduled a meeting he had canceled hours earlier with his visiting Polish counterpart.

"From the technical point of view, I was able to see a lot of interesting things, both at El'op and Elbit, as well as at an air force base," Dobrzanski said. "When we talk of political issues, unfortunately, my expectations were not met. Maybe that was connected with the events of the last few days and hours."

Dobrzanski for this morning in Jerusalem, where the Polish visitor will also meet with Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. From Jerusalem, Dobrzanski heads for Gaza.

his eight schedule at the Knesset and with the redeployment, he asked that [ministry director-general] Ilan Biran and [Mordechai's adviser] David Ivry meet with the Polish defense minister. Both Biran and Ivry are very senior officials."

Swiss bank stored Jewish art loot

ZURICH (Reuters) - The Union Bank of Switzerland, under fire for shredding Second World War documents, stored stolen paintings for the Nazis and was suspected by the Allies of providing them with large amounts of Swiss francs, according to US government documents released yesterday.

The documents were released by the World Jewish Congress, as a debate raged in Switzerland over whether the bank's shredding of documents from a subsidiary contained information about accounts held by Jews before and during the war.

The documents released by the WJC charged that UBS, one of Switzerland's biggest banks, stored paintings stolen from prominent Jewish collectors, including masterworks by Van Gogh, Cezanne and Jan Steen, until they could be picked by a middleman working for agents of Hitler's henchman Hermann Goering.

The WJC also released documents sent from the secretary of state to the U.S. Embassy in Bern, alleging that UBS was second only to Credit Suisse in violating the Allied "Code of Conduct" in dealing with the Axis powers.

The 1945 documents also said that the Union Bank violated "the less rigid regulations" which the Swiss banking industry put into effect in September 1944. The documents cited a two-week period of intercepts as showing that UBS "provided the enemy" with \$150,000 at the time.

Meanwhile, American Jewish leaders due to meet top Swiss bankers today said they would stress that UBS's destruction of the Holocaust-era records was "intolerable."

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) also urged Swiss politicians and banks to treat a security guard who discovered the shredding as a hero for rescuing some documents and making the incident public.

"I would have thought that from the highest levels of this country, one would have heard a voice of outrage [at the shredding]," ADL national director Abraham Foxman told a news conference yesterday after his group met Bernese politicians, including Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti.

"I don't hear the voices of outrage, I hear excuses, and I don't see the celebration of this security guard as a hero," he said.



Tribute to a fallen leader
Meretz Party leader MK Yossi Sarid places a bouquet of flowers at the grave of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin before yesterday's Knesset vote on the Hebron agreement.

Histadrut aims to restart Haifa Chemicals talks

By DAVID RUDGE

A last-ditch effort is being made to restart the negotiations between management and workers in the long-running Haifa Chemicals dispute, amid reports the firm's owner, Arye Genger, is considering closing the plant.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz called on the company to hold "saturation" talks until a compromise solution is reached to ensure the future of the plant and the jobs of over 400 workers.

The company has reportedly lost between \$11 million and \$15m because of this latest

strike and earlier disruptions that have virtually shut down production since last October.

Genger, who lives in the US, is reportedly considering closing the plant - which manufactures potassium nitrate, used as a fertilizer - and transferring production to competitors' factories in Chile, to assure that customers' orders can be filled.

Histadrut officials, however, described the reports as part of the psychological war against the workers and the union in the negotiations over a new collective labor agreement.

In another dramatic development yesterday, the chairman of the Histadrut's Haifa district

branch, Baruch Zaltz, announced that he was pulling out of the stalled negotiations.

Workers have criticized Zaltz for making too many concessions to management, even though the talks broke down over the Histadrut's refusal to accept management's demands to fire 30 "problematic" workers, in addition to 60 who have agreed to take early retirement.

By last night, management had not responded to Peretz's call to resume negotiations. The Histadrut plans to disrupt work at Haifa Chemicals' other factory south of Beersheba, if no progress is made.

New 'Jerusalem Post' appointments

F. David Radler, president and CEO of Hollinger International and chairman of the board of *The Jerusalem Post*, announced the appointment today of Yehuda Levy as vice chairman.

"Norman is uniquely suited to this post, given his distinguished career in public service, his strong academic training, and a first-hand knowledge and experience in the region," Radler said.

He speaks English, French and Hebrew with a knowledge of the Russian and Arabic. His column on foreign affairs is published occasionally in Canada by the *Globe and Mail*.

"As a result of the success we've achieved, and our interest in expanding our presence in Israel, I am pleased to announce the promotion of Yehuda Levy to this new position. Mr. Levy will report directly to me to build on the solid franchise he has developed over the last eight years in this key Hollinger International division," Radler said.

The appointments are to take effect on May 1. Spector began his career in the public sector in 1975 and later served as deputy minister to the premier of British Columbia. In 1986 he joined the federal government, serving in various capacities including Canadian ambassador to Israel from 1992-95. Spector holds a BA (Hons) from McGill University; an MS from Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University; and an M.Phil. and PhD from Columbia University.

"I have followed this region directly and indirectly throughout my career, and I am very enthused by this opportunity to further the progress of *The Jerusalem Post* within Israel and internationally," Spector said.

Radler also announced today the appointment of Norman Spector as president and publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*, reporting to the chairman.

Hollinger International, daily newspapers as well as magazines and other publications, is a leading publisher of English-language newspapers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Israel. Included among the 142 paid daily newspapers that the company owns or has an interest in are the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. These 142 newspapers have a world-wide daily combined circulation of 4,021,000. In addition, the company owns or has an interest in 358 non-daily newspapers, as well as magazines and other publications.

Norman Spector

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To book a lecture in English, call 02-563-4150 or 676-9308.

NEWS

in brief

Famous haggada given to National Library

A 14th century German haggada, known as the Wolff Haggada, has finally come to rest at the National and Hebrew University Library.

Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz presented the rare book to the library's chief librarian, Prof. Israel Schatzman, at Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon's office on Wednesday.

Inscribed on vellum and profusely illustrated, the haggada belonged to Berlin's Jewish community. Stolen on Kristallnacht in November 1938, it reappeared after the war in Warsaw's Jewish History Museum. In 1984 the haggada was stolen again.

In 1989 two Jewish merchants tried to sell it at public auction in Geneva, swearing that they had come by their treasure honestly. The Polish government, the World Jewish Congress and the Berlin Jewish community sued to get the haggada back, agreeing that if they won the case, the Wolff Haggada would be brought to Israel. Three months ago the trial ended in victory.

Helen Kaye

Hospital sanctions stopped after agreement

Sanctions at Wolfson, Assaf Harofeh and Barzilai hospitals were called off suddenly yesterday afternoon after the Finance Ministry reached an agreement with the administrative and maintenance workers' union.

Labor peace returned when Yossi Cohen, the Treasury's deputy wage chief, finally signed an agreement adding employees to the existing list of those entitled to special duty pay.

The union, representing 9,000 government hospital workers, had been protesting the Finance Ministry's "broken promises," regarding the duty allowances, which had previously been approved by an interministerial committee. Although the Health Ministry confirmed that such a commitment had been made, the Finance Ministry remained mum throughout the dispute.

Judy Siegel

Immigrant doctors to remain at posts

More than 500 immigrant doctors, who had been threatened with dismissal at the end of this month, will be able to continue working until they complete their specialization, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said last night.

At a meeting yesterday, the director-general of the absorption, health and finance ministries allocated NIS 30 million - from the budgets of all three ministries - which will cover the doctors' pay until the end of their period of specialization.

The last of the 527 doctors will complete specialization at the end of 1999. Earlier, the Yisrael Ba'alyana faction had called on the prime minister to dismiss Health Minister Yehoshua Matza unless a solution was found.

Batsheva Tsur

MDA brings woman back from dead

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 23-year-old woman being prepared for sinus surgery in a private hospital in Beersheba suddenly went into cardiac arrest yesterday, but was brought back to life by a Mago David Adom team called into the operating room.

The young woman, who had been put under general anesthesia, suddenly suffered an irregular heartbeat, her blood pressure fell, and she became clinically dead for "a reason that was not clear," according to MDA.

The surgeon and anesthesiologists in the operating room at the Maccabi health fund's Ramat Margalit hospital immediately tried to resuscitate her with electric shocks to the heart and special drugs.

The staff also called MDA, which is the standing order in such cases as such a facility.

A MDA mobile intensive care team - Dr. Leonid Kaufman, and driver/medic Danny Ben-Haroush - arrived and "took over" the resuscitation effort.

Using the same type of equipment available in Ramat Margalit, they performed more electric shocks, gave her adrenaline and atropine, and after 15 minutes, her heartbeat was restored.

She was rushed to Soroka Hospital, where she was still unconscious and in serious but stable condition last night.

A Ramat Margalit spokesman said the woman, who was healthy before the operation except for the sinus condition, underwent a battery of tests before the surgery.

"It is well known that complications can occur, in rare cases, from anesthesia," she said.

Cohen, who has been an MDA paramedic for eight years, said that being called into a hospital operating room and bringing a patient back to life after the hospital staff were unable to do so is extremely rare.

"I had tears in my eyes, seeing this healthy young girl in such a condition. But I was glad that the resuscitation succeeded."

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OSCE to Milosevic: Grant protesters' demands

By MARK HEINRICH

BELGRADE - Europe's biggest security body intensified pressure on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday, urging him to go beyond piecemeal concessions and fully recognize local election wins by opposition parties.

demonstrated daily for almost nine weeks in a bid to reinstate opposition victories in Serbian local elections nullified by the ruling Socialists (SPS), who claimed unspecified "irregularities".

Suspicious opposition leaders vowed to continue protests, pulling some 10,000 people into Belgrade's streets again yesterday, after a senior Socialist hardliner said an appeal was planned against the electoral commission rulings.

PHYLLIS HACKETT
The bereaved families
Hackett, Gaba, Abrahams
and our extended families
We will visit the grave on January 20 at 10 a.m.
at Har Hamenuhot.

Bill Cosby's son shot dead

LOS ANGELES — Bill Cosby's only son was shot to death yesterday after stopping on a Santa Monica Mountains road.

The body of Ennis Cosby, his 20s, was found alongside his Mercedes-Benz convertible at the top of Sepulveda Pass, publicist David Brokaw said. Police said he died of a single gunshot wound.

The 54-year-old star of television's *Cosby* was notified early yesterday in New York, where the show is produced. Cosby and wife Camille have four daughters.

Diana ends political minefield trip

LUANDA (Reuter) - Britain's Princess Diana, who ended a trip to Angola yesterday, shrugging off controversy over her fight to ban landmines, a crusade she owes to take to trouble spots around the globe.

She brushed off criticism by politicians back home that she should mind her own business and not get involved in politics as "merely a distraction" and vowed not to change course.

Lebed may attend Clinton swearing-in

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's former national security chief, Alexander Lebed, may be attending President Clinton's inauguration. Then again, maybe not.

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With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
RAPHA PERETZ FREDMAN
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ABRAHAM SCHWARTZ

The funeral will take place today, January 17, 1997 (9 Shevat 5757) at 11 a.m. at the Savyon Cemetery.

Mourned by:
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Ziv and Shahar Schwartz
Shiri Schwartz
Yitzhak and Ilana Schwartz and family
Amnon and Yaira Schwartz and family
Grandsons, Nir and Gai Schwartz

Four to be charged over 1946 pogrom

WARSAW (AP) — Four former communist security officials will be charged with failing to act during a 1946 antisemitic riot in which 42 Jews were killed, the justice minister said yesterday.

Leszek Kubicki said prosecutors would file charges after a government-appointed commission investigating the riot in the central town of Kielce completes its work. He said that would be soon, but did not give a date.

Four to be charged over 1946 pogrom

Asked Tuesday if he would visit the United States in the near future, Russia's self-styled president-in-waiting said, "I will go to the United States after my inauguration."

The Aminach Group mourns the untimely passing of its owner and director-general

ABRAHAM SCHWARTZ

The funeral will take place today, Friday, January 17, 1997 (9 Shevat 5757) at 11 a.m. at the Savyon Cemetery.

Aminach Polyniv Danish Rim American Comfort Cardo-Hungary



Abortion clinic bombed
Smoke rises from the site where the second of two bombs exploded yesterday near a building housing an abortion clinic in Atlanta. The second bomb exploded while federal officials combed through debris left by the first blast. (Reuter)

Crown Heights federal trial on again

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal prosecutor described in court yesterday how a gang of blacks, whipped to anger by the traffic death of a seven-year-old boy, "took the law into its own hands" by attacking a yeshiva student in Crown Heights.

where a black majority and the hassidim have long maintained an uneasy coexistence.

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(Karen Benzion)

HEBRON:

The eventual signing of the Hebron accord followed months of setbacks which accompanied Netanyahu's steep learning curve, David Makovsky writes

Signed, sealed ...

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai likes to compare the opponents of the Hebron accord to the soldier who complains about breakfast in the army. When his curious commander tries to pin down the exact complaint by asking what he ate, the soldier does not voice specific complaints. So, the commander asked, why is it so bad? "At home, I never eat breakfast. I can sleep through the morning, and do not have to awaken to the reality of another day."

With the Hebron accord, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government walked away from the reality of Oslo, and in so doing left the polemics of the past behind and accepted that the Palestinians are destined to share this small strip of land. It is crucial as it marked the Likud's first agreement with the PLO, and the first time that the Likud is making a territorial concession in the West Bank. Moreover, and no less critically, this government consent to adhere to establishing three further pullbacks ensures that there will be a partition of the West Bank.

In so doing, the Likud is essentially going against the 30-year-old organizing principle of the party, as evidenced by the resignation - on principle - of Science Minister Ze'ev (Benny) Begin. These dramatic facts loom larger than the fine print of the accord, and are explained by the Likud that it is doing so not out of enthusiasm but due to lack of choice, or as Mordechai's story makes clear, a recognition of an Oslo reality.

Yet, the odyssey has not just been the government's odyssey. It has been Netanyahu's personal odyssey from someone who campaigned, even while in office, against Oslo but this week nudged it forward significantly by giving it a more bipartisan base.

The prime minister's learning curve was steep, given the fact that in an interview with this reporter during his run for premiership, Netanyahu demonstrated ignorance of key aspects of Oslo II, suggesting that he never read the agreement.

This transition was certainly not easy. His flexibility was driven by his sense of seeking to escape Israel's regional and international isolation that hit home as a result of the Hasmonian tunnel affair

and its aftermath. By looking back at the evolution of the Hebron talks themselves, one can trace the evolution of Netanyahu and look at some of the other key actors including Mordechai, which offer glimpses into the future.

If one wants to look for a major turning point in the Hebron talks one needs to return to the September violence that surrounded the tunnel affair. Before this incident there had been drift and desultory conversations which had even been regarded as progress notwithstanding the first two months in office when Netanyahu did not even want to meet Yasser Arafat or indicated that he would not commit to serious negotiations on Hebron. This was punctuated by gratuitous statements that aggravated Palestinians such as constant public denigration of Oslo even though Netanyahu admitted that the government would adhere to it. Taken together, it created deepening suspicion among the Palestinians that Netanyahu was not serious about peace and set the backdrop for the fighting.

While some Israelis still believe that Arafat secretly called for violence when he asked Palestinians to demonstrate, GSS head Ami Ayalon has made it clear that the intelligence community does not think so.

One US official said, "the tunnel and the violence was a wake-up. Until then, he was playing around with the Palestinian issue. He was not serious about it. The Palestinians felt disillusioned, were being used for photo-ops, deflecting pressure from the Europeans and Arabs. There was no movement on any issue, and the Israeli bureaucracy was instructed to avoid contact with Palestinians."

US Consul-General Ed Abington recalled, "the lowest point came the night after Israeli soldiers were killed at Joseph's Tomb. There was a late-night cabinet meeting. I was with Arafat, and there was concern that Israel could send troops into Nablus which would lead to widespread bloodshed. During the cabinet meeting, Netanyahu would not return Arafat's phone call, but Arafat did get through to General Uzi Dayan and told him that the Joseph's Tomb issue would be

resolved, and he would ensure that the violence would be cooled. The message was passed on to Netanyahu. Luckily the cabinet did not call for action. The whole peace process could have all collapsed that night," Abington said.

The subsequent White House summit ended as Netanyahu took a position that violence could not be rewarded and therefore he would make no concession under pressure. This tough stance was well received at home, but it cost him Jordan, as King Hussein emerged bitter at the summit's results. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who thumbed his nose at President Clinton by boycotting the summit, was vindicated. Clinton was constrained due to the impending US elections, but the summit did not bode well for their ties in the months ahead. Finally Arafat emerged, believing that he had the upper hand by winning broader international support.

Taken together, Netanyahu returned home as a person who, in the words of one negotiator, "now dug himself in a hole. Without an agreement, he could not get out of his international and regional isolation. Israel could now not walk

away from Hebron."

The post-tunnel negotiations were in full throttle from October and Netanyahu turned to the US peace team for an extra push. It was a curious combination since Netanyahu had been angered by the peace team while running for prime minister, charging they were behind Clinton's support for Shimon Peres. Netanyahu found out that when there was trust between Yitzhak Rabin, Peres, and Arafat, the US role was relatively minor, serving little more as an emcee for peace-signing ceremonies. In contrast, when there was no trust between Israel and the Palestinians, the US would assume the role that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has coined for the US: "The indispensable nation."

Undoubtedly, the US had suffered regional setbacks during 1996 as evidenced by a new Islamic government in Turkey, bombing of US forces in Saudi Arabia, and Saddam Hussein's gain of Kurdish enclaves in northern Iraq. But curiously, it would be the Netanyahu government dependency and lack of allies which

would demonstrate to the world that there is no replacement for Washington in the Middle East.

Once talks began in earnest in October, another interesting dynamic became evident. While Israel could not walk from the talks, the US could and did threaten to leave. On four occasions US special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross made it clear that he would leave. Ross, whose presence here on the ground for almost a total of two months represented both the unprecedented deepening of US involvement in the talks and, curiously, the Middle-Easternization of American behavior.

This market-like approach of threatening to walk out seemed far from the strident approach of Foggy Bottom diplomats or the calm academic demeanor of Ross himself, but it was effective in convincing Arafat, and sometimes Netanyahu, that the US was serious.

If up to the tunnel affair constituted the end of the first phase of Israeli-Palestinian ties, the second phase probably concluded at the end of November. By the end of

November, Israel withdrew its insistence upon explicit language enabling Israel to preemptively and preventively reenter the 80% of Hebron under Palestinian control whenever it was deemed necessary to fight terrorism. Israel settled for a reaffirmation of the Oslo II clause, which enabled limited reactive but pursuit - something which could have been obtained within days of the Likud's coming to office last June.

In a certain way, this marked the period of greatest confusion. Foreign Minister David Levy would make statements that the talks would be over "in hours" - a declaration he would rue as it marked the effective end of his involvement in the talks, when it blatantly turned out to be untrue. Also, Israel did not take into account the person who turned into perhaps the biggest personal winner of these talks, Saeb Erekat. Israeli officials, along with Palestinian security officials, were not fond of Erekat due to his often abrasive style. Israel's top negotiator, Yitzhak Molcho, sought to circumvent Erekat by going straight to Arafat, yet this turned out to be in vain.

Erekat knew how to press Arafat's hot button, turning mun-

dane issues such as the use of rifles instead of pistols into the one issue that Arafat likes to hear: "Palestinian dignity." Another advantage of Erekat was that with Ahmed Qreia (known as Abu Ala) now out of the negotiating loop by becoming speaker of the Palestinian legislative Council, or Palestinian Knesset, as well as Erekat. Moreover, his sharp grasp of English made him a mismatch for Dan Sboimron, whose English is poor and who is neither interested in nor capable of dealing with legal nuance.

Finally, Erekat came with a grudge. He believed that negotiators Peres and Uri Savir outwitted Palestinian counterparts by going over their heads and appealing directly to Arafat on key aspects of Oslo II. Hence, Israel faced an experienced negotiator who was determined not to be outmaneuvered, or to allow Israelis to go over his head.

Egypt was dying to get into the process to demonstrate Cairo's perennial quest for regional leadership. Netanyahu thought Egypt might be helpful in getting the Palestinians to temper their demands, and invited Moussa to

Continued on Page 11

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

ETHICS, LAW AND COMMUNICATION IN AN ERA OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND EXTREMISM
An Examination of the Boundaries of Liberty and Tolerance in Liberal Democracies

IN MEMORY OF
PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN
 University of Haifa, Safdie Auditorium 28-31 January 1997

Tuesday, 28 January 1997
14:00 Opening Session
 Chairperson: Prof. Ephraim David
 Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Haifa

Prof. Eli Barnavi, Department of History, Tel-Aviv University
Political Assassination: A Historian's Perspective

Prof. Myriam Yardeni, Department of History, University of Haifa
The Problem of Violence in the Wars of Religion in France (1562-1598)

Prof. Harvey Chisick, Department of History, University of Haifa
The Dual Threat to Modern Citizenship: Non-Consensual Activism and Liberal Indifference

Prof. Arnon Gutfield, Department of History, Tel-Aviv University
Loyalty, Treason and Sedition in the United States During Crisis Times

Dr. Ron Robin, Department of History, University of Haifa
Professors as Propagandists: Liberal Democracies vs. Totalitarianism in the Reeducation Program for German POWs During WWII

17:30 Session in Commemoration of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin
 Chairperson: Dr. Raphael Cohen-Almagor,
 Chairperson, Conference Committee

Mrs. Leah Rabin
 MK. Shimon Peres
 Prof. Yehuda Hayuth, President, University of Haifa

Keynote Lecture
 Prof. Frederick Schauer
 Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University:
The Cost of Communicative Tolerance

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The ax has fallen

While some settlers acknowledge there is now nothing to wait for but the messiah, others aim to keep up the struggle. **Herb Keinon reports**

Pinhas Wallerstein, the chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, closed an emergency meeting of the council's plenum Tuesday night with the singing of "Ani Ma'amin." "I have perfect faith in the coming of the messiah."

Some could argue there was a great deal of symbolism in Wallerstein's choice of song — that it reflects the settlement movement's faith that, in the final analysis, God is on their side, and all will work out in the end.

Others could say there was something slightly pathetic about Wallerstein singing "Ani Ma'amin" before "Hatikva"; that it was acknowledgment that after years of struggle and sacrifice to create incontrovertible facts on the ground, the settlers — as Jews have throughout the millennia — were left with nothing but to wait for the messiah.

At two emergency meetings of the council this week — one with just the members of the secretariat, and one with 200 representatives from all the settlements — it was made clear that the settlement movement is at a crucial fork in the road. What marked both meetings was that only little was said about Hebron. Redevelopment was taken as a given. The bulk of the debate was about further redeployment, and the concern that this would sound the death knell for the settlements.

"Why did we call an emergency meeting?" Kiryat Arba activist Elyakim Ha'etzni asked the plenum Tuesday night. "Because what is about to happen is the partitioning of Israel. The Likud government is going to partition Israel."

Settlement leaders throughout the week spoke in terms of having been deceived. The feeling up until this week, said Aryeh Ofri, the head of the Samaria Regional Council, was that Prime Minister Netanyahu would — because he had no choice — indeed go through with the redeployment from Hebron. But that he would then stop there. The settlement council convened emergency meetings because of the fear that by committing to the further redeployment stages, Netanyahu had sealed the fate of the other settlements as well.

Had Labor been the party pulling the troops out of Hebron, there is little doubt that the streets would be reverberating with protest

"If the agreement is approved, everything is lost," Ha'etzni told the secretariat at its meeting Monday afternoon. "Who is going to invest \$80,000 to \$100,000 in a settlement when he knows that around him everything is brown [the color of Palestinian autonomous regions on government maps]. People will not invest. You can say what you want about Jews, but they are not stupid."

Ha'etzni represents the right wing of the settlement council. Council director-general Aharon Domb, representing the council's "pragmatic" wing, tried to temper Ha'etzni's assessment, arguing that "not everything is black and white"; that the reality, as harsh as it may be, is not as bad as some would have it appear. But even Domb would agree that if Netanyahu hands over to the Palestinians in the further stages as much land as they will likely demand — with or without the American letter of clarification — then the settlements, though they may not be uprooted, will certainly have nowhere to grow.

But this is a big "if." Yitnon Ahimov, head of the Efrat Local Council, said that rather than fighting the government, the council should make sure the government gives to the Palestinians only the barest minimum during the next three redeployment stages.

But, according to Aryeh Tsur, head of the Gaza Coast Regional Council, there is no reason in the world to think Netanyahu won't give in to American and Palestinian pressure. Ever since Camp David, Tsur said, whenever there has been a difference of interpretation between Arab and Israeli versions of an agreement, the Arab version has always won out.

AFTER THE council's two emergency meetings, and hours of consultations between the settlement leaders themselves, the council came out only with declarative statements against the accords, and various threats. But nothing operative. Had Labor been the party pulling the troops out of Hebron, there is little doubt that the streets would be reverberating with



Praying in the Cave of the Patriarchs.

(Brian Henderson)

protest. That this is not the case reflects the council's dilemma. On the one hand the council worked hard for Netanyahu's election; prayed for his election.

They realize that this government is the best alternative, and that to bring down the government would be to shoot itself in the foot. Yet on the other hand they want to send a message to the government that, as one council official put it, "they cannot do everything they want."

The council is split between those who want to take a pragmatic approach, continuing working with the government in the hope that they can influence its policies; and those who believe that as a result of the Hebron agreement, the council and the government should

part ways.

Ya'acov Katz, an Alon Shvut resident and pollster at Bar-Ilan University's school of education, presented the "pragmatic" approach at the meeting Tuesday night. Amid Ha'etzni's fire, and the brimstone of Ron Nahman who said that the settlement leaders should resign en masse to pressure the government, Katz got up and said simply: "We can do everything. But in the final analysis, the reality is what determines. It is from this reality that we must operate."

And the reality he described was of a prime minister who said before the elections that he will continue with the Oslo agreements, and who — according to Katz — won the election precisely because he said he

would continue with the Oslo process.

"Today, public opinion is not with us," Katz said. "Forty-nine percent of the public is in favor of leaving Palestinian population areas." When this brought jeers and calls of "we can lead public opinion," Karnel Shomron Local Council head Yehuda Lieberman said to Katz, "don't confuse them with facts."

The other approach, the approach that won the most applause, was that of Yosef Artziel, a rabbi from Kedumim and one of the core Gush Emunim activists from the 1970s. "When we fought and struggled, we were respected. But when we are nice, they spit on us. Because we are so nice and sweet, the prime

minister and the cabinet are spitting on us," he said.

Referring to the heady days of Gush Emunim, Artziel said, "We were a core group of seven people, and led the whole country after us. We knew what we had to do. And we know today, like we knew then."

Indicative of the council, is that while Katz was jeered, and Artziel was applauded, in the final analysis Katz won out.

The council issued a statement calling on the government to reject the accords, but stopping far short of adopting any of the various protest options that were suggested. The council put its pragmatic foot forward.

Shahor: Arafat has a script and uses Ben-Gurion as an example

Major-General Oren Shahor, the government's coordinator of activities in the territories, was the only Israeli who negotiated on behalf of both the Labor- and Likud-led governments. In an interview with **Arieh O'Sullivan** and **Jon Immanuel**, Shahor, who negotiated the civilian arrangements in the Hebron deal, assesses Yasser Arafat, Palestinian negotiators and the likelihood of Palestinian statehood

The Palestinians had this lack of trust. There was this problematic relationship which had to be built up in stages, and the Palestinians said they want to be sure that there is a continuation of the process beyond Hebron.

Is there an agreement on the amount of territory to be given to the Palestinians?

Not at all. You have to understand that there was not even a discussion on the third pullback. Anyway, it is not up for discussion with the Palestinians, although we should still inform them. But according to the interim agreement it is our decision. It is a unilateral decision.

Yasser Arafat speaks of 80 percent of the territory?

First of all it can't be 80 percent. Arafat is speaking of what he wants and that has no bearing. The only thing which holds is what has already been handed over, which is 27 percent which was transferred with various jurisdictions, including area A and the populated areas which include the village area.

We are not talking of agreement but understandings of a continuity?

The matter has not been discussed. The only matter concerning the final arrangement was a single ceremonial meeting before the elections, and an agenda wasn't even set there.

Many say the closure is causing economic hardships. What is your position?

On one hand the closure helps in solving the security problems since it deters some of the terrorists. It is easier to see who is here and who is not. It does not hermetically prevent attacks. If someone wants to slip through he can. Except for the case in which a terrorist slipped through at Karni Crossing and went on to carry out the Dizengoff bombing, the closure had a deterrent effect on attacks.

On the other hand, there is the Paris agreement which calls for freedom of commerce, even though in the interim agreement we put in a clause stating any security



Shahor: The Palestinians lacked trust.

(Israel Sun)

this is having an effect on the Palestinian economy.

Today the situation is better and we are feeling it. The problems are the fluctuations when there is a terror attack. I am one of those who think that we don't need foreign workers. This has a lot of bad repercussions and I think we have to allow more and more Palestinians to become involved to the Israeli economy. This also protects the security by giving them something to lose. There is a balance. When we make decisions to ease the closure we are taking security risks.

Some groups in Israel, like the Environment Ministry, are against some industrial zones?

In general the industrial zones are very important. They employ people, including those from the territories, and also allow for work to continue even if there is a closure. They also create an interaction between Israelis and Palestinians which is positive. We have to examine if they are harmful to the environment in some places, but in general they are welcomed.

How does the military deal with the Palestinian economic dependence on Israel at a time when more and more Palestinian forces are emerging in the territories?

The Palestinian forces are intended to maintain order on the Palestinian streets. The weapons are given out to keep public order. Last September's incidents were a gross violation of the agreement which almost brought about a rift due to the use of weapons against IDF soldiers. We expect the Palestinian police to deal with terror, but it is not just the Palestinian police but also the security services who are really doing something.

Regarding the war on terror, do you have proof that the Palestinians have fomented terror?

Yes, there is close cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli security services. This is no secret.

Continued on Page 20

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Peres links Hebron pullout to PA crackdown on Hamas

'Hot pursuit' issue delays Hebron deal

'Arafat will accept Hebron pullback delay'

Netanyahu, Arafat on verge of summit

PM rejects firm deadline on Hebron

Ross leaves Hebron talks stall

Hussein compromise may clinch Hebron deal

Netanyahu reject Egypt's Moussa as Hebron mediator

not detail Hebron deal

PM: Arafat and I made progress

Clinton presses for Hebron pact

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PM irked by Arafat's 'stalling' on Hebron

Knesset to vote on Hebron pact today

'Jordan deserved the credit, Egypt did not'

HEBRON

Continued from Page 8

Palestinians to temper their demands, and invited Moussa to visit Israel. Moussa saw this as an opportunity to become a full-fledged mediator, and enthusiastically told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak so. However, once the level of the misunderstanding became clear upon his return to Jerusalem, Netanyahu sent his loyal foreign policy aide Dore Gold to clarify the situation in Cairo.

During the last six weeks, Egypt envisaged its own role as not only being Arafat's confidant, but ultimately as being more pious than the pope of Palestinian nationalism. Egypt was not only driven by a sense of regional attachment, but, according to negotiators, felt that if the Palestinians would dig in, the stalemate would so deepen Israel's regional isolation that the result would be that Netanyahu would have no choice but to turn to Shimon Peres and form a unity government.

However, like their brothers in Damascus during the Golan talks, Cairo overplayed its hand. The most egregious example was when Mubarak went on Egyptian television and said that Arafat could not accept a compromise when it came to the Ibrahim Mosque (the Tomb of the Patriarchs). In fact, Oslo II made clear that this issue would only come up three months after Hebron. However, like Netanyahu, Mubarak apparently never read the agreement.

Ross, however, made pilgrimages to Cairo in a bid to ask the Egyptians to use its influence with the Palestinians to bring the negotiations to an end. However, as during past trips, the visit last Saturday appeared to have limited value. Television cameras at Mubarak's palace caught the Egyptians and Americans looking glumly at each other. Yet Ross would not take the ultimate step when it came to Cairo, namely publicly blaming Egypt for the deadlock. As one American official put it: "Let's face it. The Egyptians basically played an obstructionist role in these talks. Last Saturday was a wasted day in Cairo. There was a genuine sense of sweet justice that King Hussein and not Egypt got the credit for clinching these talks. Jordan deserved the credit and Egypt did not."

However, if Mubarak did one single thing right during these last few months, it was inviting Mordechai for a meeting and giving him red-carpet treatment. This meeting was a personal turning point for Mordechai, as he emerged from the meeting as virtually the "true believer" of the peace process. In Rabinesque form, Mordechai looked

at the peace process not through rose-tinted glasses, but rather as the essential condition for halting the region from sliding to violence. For Mordechai, this was partly personal. During the visit to Egypt, he told aides, "I have not been back to Egypt since the Yom Kippur War when I saw my comrades die on Egyptian soil. I want to move forward to peace because I cannot forget those killed here."

"I will not have the entire Middle East go up in flames for a single shack in Hebron."

—Yitzhak Mordechai

After his trip, Mordechai put the Hebron issue in a regional context. In a specific reference to a problematic Jewish house in the Hebron cas-

bah, Mordechai remarked, "I will not have the entire Middle East go up in flames for a single shack in Hebron." At one point during the last few weeks, Mordechai was frustrated by the stalemate in negotiations. Against the advice of his advisers who said it was not keeping with protocol, Mordechai showed up unannounced at one session of the peace talks, insisting that top military officials Lt-Gen. Amnon Shahak and Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz

Together in prayer

At the time of the original Oslo handshake in 1993, the London-based Arabic daily *al-Hayat* voiced glee that the "four rabbis of the State Department" were not part of the secret deal in Norway, alluding to the four Jewish members of the US peace team led by Dennis Ross.

To the Arabs' surprise, there certainly have been ups and downs between the US team and Binyamin Netanyahu dating back to the Bush administration. However, one incident during the last couple of weeks came closest yet to the fantasies of *al-Hayat*. During a late-night negotiating session at the home of US ambassador Martin Indyk, Aaron Miller, Ross's bright and longtime top deputy, wanted to say *kaddish* for his mother, who recently died in Cleveland. (Just before her death, Aaron's mother was saluted by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert in Cleveland for lifetime of devotion to the Jewish people.) This was the night where the security details of Hebron were finalized, and Defense Minister Mordechai was in attendance. A break was taken in the talks. Ross, Indyk, and US legal adviser Jonathan Schwartz joined Mordechai and other Israelis in making a *minyan* so Miller could say *kaddish*. The Palestinian negotiators looked on, with apparent respect. D.M.

Savir: Netanyahu fails to reap benefits of Oslo

The architect of the accords believes that despite the PM's misinterpretations, a final pact will be reached, Steve Rodan reports

As Foreign Ministry director-general during the Rabin and Peres governments, Uri Savir spent hundreds of hours in negotiations with Palestinians and concluded two interim agreements that will direct Israel until at least 1999. Today, as a private citizen, Savir says Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud-led government is misinterpreting the accords completely, paying the price of withdrawal without gaining any of the benefits of Palestinian-Israeli conciliation. For Savir, the Oslo accords represented little more than a psychological tool for building trust with the Palestinians without Israel conceding anything that would erode its strategic strength. The architects of Oslo, he says, operated under a cardinal rule: Never leave the initiative to others.



Savir: Netanyahu's concessions are due to pressure. We achieved through partnership.

"They [the Netanyahu government] treat the agreement with more importance than we did," Savir says. "The real gains of Oslo did not come from the Palestinians. It opened doors with Jordan and the Arab world because we were seen as leading the process and not being dragged through it."

And this is Netanyahu's main problem, Savir says. Because the prime minister's concessions are purely the result of pressure, Israel loses any chance of gaining Arab goodwill required for the peace process to bear political and economic achievements. "I worry that the Arabs think that they got this agreement because of pressure on Netanyahu," Savir says. "In the past, we achieved things through partnership." Savir vividly recalls the 1995 Oslo II agreement on further IDF redeployments: three stages of withdrawal that would take place in September 1996 and end a year later. The original Palestinian demand, derived from the Declaration of Principles, was that

following the January 1996 elections, the IDF would withdraw from most of the West Bank. "They spoke of 75 percent of the West Bank after the third redeployment," Savir says. "We said there should not be a percentage listed in the agreements. This was the hardest part of the battle but [former prime ministers] Peres and Rabin insisted."

Savir stresses that all of the further redeployments would be determined by Israel and not subject to negotiations. But he said the Peres government had planned to negotiate the third redeployment to ensure Palestinian cooperation.

Even after the final further redeployment Savir says Israel would have remained in large parts, although not most of, the West Bank. Israeli pullbacks would have been coordinated with IDF needs to maintain security over its installations, and Jewish settlements. This would have included maintaining Israeli control in

Continued on Page 20

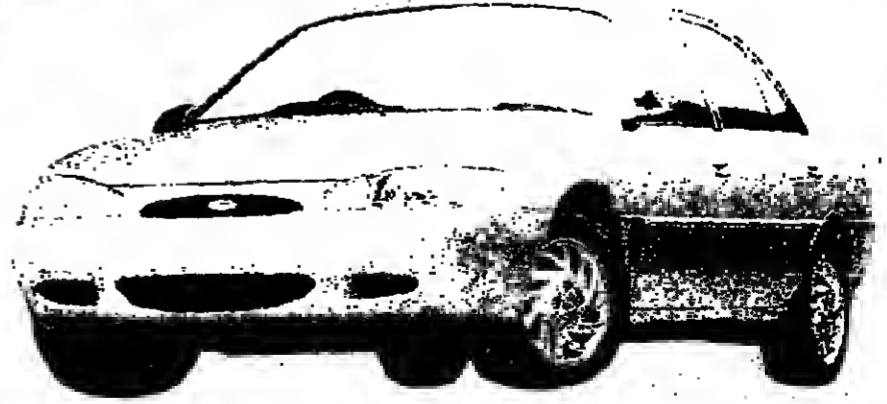
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Justice for all

The role of the attorney-general is one of the most powerful positions in the state, Amy Klein reports

In one week, the nomination of an attorney-general was proposed, approved, suspended and withdrawn. But in the aftermath of Roni Bar-On's failed appointment, one question stands out above the rest: Who cares?

One would hope the answer is: everybody. The position of attorney-general is one of the most powerful, pivotal roles in the state, with influence over national, criminal and civil affairs.

But the fact that the attorney-general's responsibilities stem more from tradition rather than legislation is what has sparked the current debate over the role of the job — as well as the demand for new legislation.

"The role of the attorney-general has a very long history," says Hebrew University political science professor Abraham Diskin. "It's not something that they thought about and made a law. In reality, a large part of the attorney-general's duties developed because of the personality of the person," he says.

IT ALL started in 1948 after the notorious Tubiansky affair, Meir Tubiansky, in a secret trial held by fellow Hagana members, was executed on the false charge of spying.

When Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro, Israel's first attorney-general, fought prime minister David Ben-Gurion for the right to prosecute the perpetrators, he fought for the attorney-general's sole right to bring all cases to prosecution.

Nine attorneys-general and almost 50 years later, the attorney-general's duties can be divided into three arenas: As chief prosecutor, the attorney-general decides which criminal cases will go to trial; as government defender, the attorney-general defends the government on all charges, and it is his legal counsel which serves as the basis for all the government's actions; and as representative of the public, the attorney-general has the right to interfere in any trial that can hurt the national or public interest.

When attorney-general Haim Cohn decided to prosecute the libel case of a lower-level government employee, Rudolf Kasztner in the 1950s, he was exercising the attorney-general's right to interfere in cases where the national interest was at stake. (What Cohn did not know was that this case would turn into the "trial of the century," striking at the core of the Labor movement's labeling as collaborators in the Holocaust.)

After the defeat, when Cohn took the case to the Supreme Court, Cohn was exercising his right to defend an individual



Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro (David Rubinger)

Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro (1948-1950) A trial lawyer by profession and one of the founders of the Labor movement, Shapiro was appointed attorney-general upon the founding of the state. He clashed with Ben-Gurion over the notorious Tubiansky case. Only the attorney-general can order a prosecution, Shapiro demanded, thus carving out the first niche of the attorney-general. He later served as justice minister under Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir. He died in 1993 at the age of 91.



Gideon Hausner (Keren Ben-Zion)

Gideon Hausner (1960-1963) Hausner was the prosecutor in the Eichmann case. Because of the clash with the minister of justice, the Agranat Commission was set up to distinguish the powers of the attorney-general and the minister of justice, which made the attorney-general independent of the minister of justice in all matters of criminal prosecution; it also set out the duties of the attorney-general.



Meir Shamgar (Joel Fishman)

Meir Shamgar (1968-1975) Served as the head military prosecutor and judicial adviser to the security system. Shamgar later went on to become president of the Supreme Court.



Aharon Barak (Efraim Klibnik)

Aharon Barak (1965-1978) A professor of law at the Hebrew University, Barak's involvement in the Camp David accords set a precedent for the attorney-general's involvement in state matters. Barak's initiative to launch a criminal investigation into the Rabio foreign bank-account affair (which led to Yitzhak Rabin's resignation) characterized the attorney-general as public prosecutor against the government.



Yosef Harish (Rahamim Yonavi)

Yosef Harish (1986-1993) The issue of deportations allowed the Rabin government to circumvent the Fourth Geneva Convention laws and "temporarily" expel 418 terrorists from Israel. In 1986 Harish's decision was not to prosecute the bank-shares scandal, and it was during his term that Supreme Court began to intervene on the attorney-general's decisions.

for the presidential pardon the three defendants received before the investigation, Harish says: "I didn't know about [the presidential pardon] until it happened. They must have planned it for weeks; it was a done deal."

Harish says that on the night when President Chaim Herzog granted the pardon, they came to him to ask if it was legal to grant a pardon before a case takes place.

When Harish pointed out that if they were innocent then they could stand trial and there was no need for immunity, he was told, "You are not an adviser on the morals of the government, or how it will look from an ethical point. The question is: can you grant immunity to people not yet convicted?"

Harish, in accordance with the mandate of his position to remain true to the law, said yes, provided the people had confessed. "There was a small conspiracy against me," he claimed.

At the time, Professor Krennitzer told reporters that the position of the attorney-general "has been seriously damaged by [last week's] events." This is the main reason for the furor behind Bar-On's political appointment. Even though the job of attorney-general requires impartiality, it is not the first time a person with political connections was appointed to the office.

Shapiro and Hausner both had some sort of political alliance before they served as attorney-general. But the legacy of the Zamir deadlock is that, "The government wants to put a rag as the attorney-general," says Diskin.

Whether it is true that Bar-On's affiliation would have affected his impartiality is irrelevant, because as the Agranat report says: "Perhaps the greatest danger lies in the possibility of creating an appearance of political pressure..."

The call for an impartial opinion of the attorney-general reflects every aspect of the job: In matters of criminal decisions (to suspend or hold a trial) the attorney-general decides alone; he is not under the jurisdiction of the minister of justice (for administrative matters, he is). Nor is the Knesset allowed to force him to change his opinion. They must fire him if they wish in the Zamir case. "And while these opinions do not have the force of law, it has always been the proper practice to follow their guidance," concludes the Agranat report.

In addition to the political manipulations of the government, the integrity of the office has been lowered even further by the interference of the Supreme Court over attorney-general's decisions, says Diskin.

One of the first reversals of the attorney-general's decision by the Supreme Court came in 1988 with the bank-shares scandal — when Harish decided there should be no prosecution. "Since then," the Supreme Court's interference over the attorney-general's decisions have become a fairly regular affair.

How can the attorney-general's position be reestablished as the impartial watchdog it once was? National Religious Party MK Shaul Yehalom's new bill tries, essentially by changing the selection committee.

The committee will be that of the judge selection committee together with the prime minister and the Knesset chairman.

Also, by limiting the term — which until now was unlimited — of the attorney-general to five years without the option of the Knesset firing him (except in the event of his committing a criminal act) this removes the political pressure of providing opinions that are acceptable to the government.

Another proposal for restoring integrity to the job is to divide it in two: government legal counsel/defender for the government, as separate from the state prosecutor. Krennitzer supports this proposal. "There is no doubt that it is a very crowded job; you cannot stand as head prosecutor and the counsel at the same time," he says.

Perhaps if in 1992 — when attorney-general Yosef Harish provided the Rabin government with the legal grounds to deport 418 Palestinians — the two jobs were separate, then the decision would not have been implemented.

But there are many who are against the proposal of separating the office, including Yehalom, who claims that the prosecutor, no longer serving as adviser, will not know what is going on.

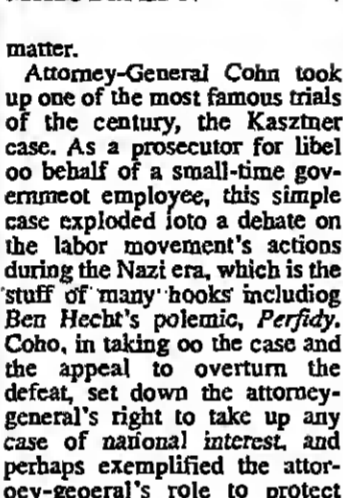
"The separation of powers will leave the attorney-general without his powers," concludes the law regarding the proposal. "It will bring down the status of the attorney-general," says Yehalom.

The bill will not go to vote before they choose the next attorney-general, Yehalom says, but Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon promised him he would look into voting on it soon.



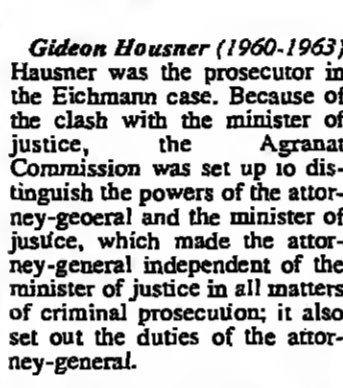
Haim Cohn (Issac Harari)

Haim Cohn (1950-1960) A learned haredi who became secular before he took office, Cohn set important definitions between religion and state in his term as attorney-general (and later as Supreme Court Justice), most importantly, his refusal to prosecute homosexuals on the grounds that though it was illegal, it was a private matter.



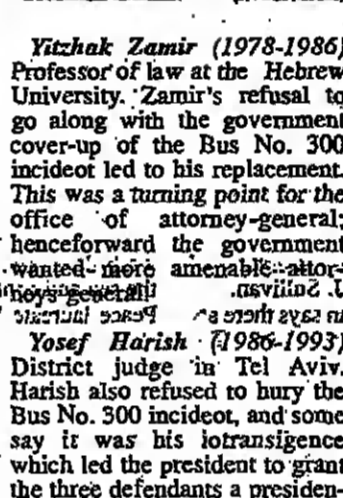
Moshe Ben Ze'ev

Moshe Ben Ze'ev (1963-68) Served as the head military prosecutor and judicial adviser to the security system. Shamgar later went on to become president of the Supreme Court.



Yitzhak Zamir (J. Arad/Modia)

Yitzhak Zamir (1978-1986) Professor of law at the Hebrew University, Zamir's refusal to go along with the government cover-up of the Bus No. 300 incident led to his replacement. This was a turning point for the office of attorney-general; henceforward the government wanted more amenable attorneys-general.



Michael Ben-Yair (Elihu Harari)

Michael Ben-Yair (1993-1996) A district judge in Tel Aviv. Likud charged him with "political motivations," in his indictment of Ya'acov Ne'eman, among others. By not consulting with Ben-Yair over various matters, Prime Minister Netanyahu broke the tradition (but not the law) of the relationship between the government and the attorney-general. Leaving the attorney-general out of the loop effectively forced Ben Yair to resign. A.K.

against a politically motivated government.

defined — if not the details — the nature of the position: "In the structure of the job there is a contradiction between the role of the adviser and the prosecutor," says Professor Mordechai Krennitzer, Dean of Law at the Hebrew University. It is a delicate tightrope to walk.

And this is where the issue of qualifications and character — which resulted in such a hefty cost

in the Bar-On affair — come into play. According to the law, the only requirement for an attorney-general is that he be worthy of being made a member of the Supreme Court (the basic requirement for that is to have served as a judge for 10 years); but the report holds that in the nature of the job, "The exercise of the prosecutor's discretion is even more important than the content of a penal code as a force in the administration of criminal justice."

"The attorney-general must be a person who is completely independent with good knowledge of the law," says Judge Asher Felix Landau, who served as the deputy state attorney under Haim Cohn, Israel's second attorney-general. "Haim Cohn was completely independent, impartial, decisive, fair," Landau recalls. "He strove to defend the state as law, not just getting them off. He didn't let the state take advantage of people."

IT IS the not-so-recent and recently reopened story of the Bus No. 300 incident that captures the crucial but awkward role of the attorney-general.

In June 1984 when two GSS officers killed two Palestinian terrorists without a trial, it was attorney-general Yitzhak Zamir who headed the investigation into the government's cover-up. His refusal to back down from the investigation led to his dismissal.

The new attorney-general, Yosef Harish, didn't prove as malleable as the government had hoped; he also refused to shelve the investigation. In response to this week's accusations against Harish that he was involved in drafting the plea

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem

Giving the Tone Musical Director Avner Biron

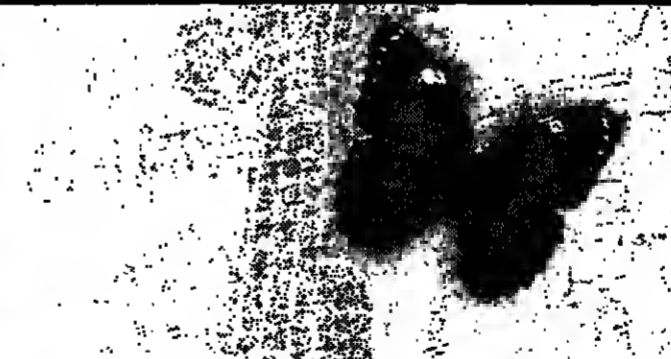
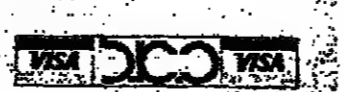
The 1996-97 season



Tel-Aviv Museum of Art 21.1.97 at 20:30 Purchases of tickets through Tel-Aviv Museum of Art Tel: 03-6961297

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Henry Crown Hall, Jerusalem 25.1.97 at 20:30 Purchases of tickets through Knesset: Tel: 02-6266669



Avner Biron conductor


Alexander Korsantia piano

Mozart Piano concerto in E flat major, K. 271 Haydn

Symphony no. 83 in G minor "The Hen" Vaughan Williams

Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis Brahms

Serenade no. 2, op. 16 Concert no. 2 in the Instrumental Series Concert no. 4 in the Great Series

 **Technion Symphony Orchestra and Choir**
Atlas Camerata Immigrants Professional Orchestra.
Prof. Dalia Atlas - Music Director

End of Winter Semester Concert, 1997
Popular Classical Music - Tuesday, January 21, at 8 p.m.
Churchill Auditorium, Technion City

Conductor: Prof. Dalia Atlas
Solist: Noam Yosefi, piano

Israeli songs for wind instruments, conducted by students in the Conductors' Class of Prof. Dalia Atlas

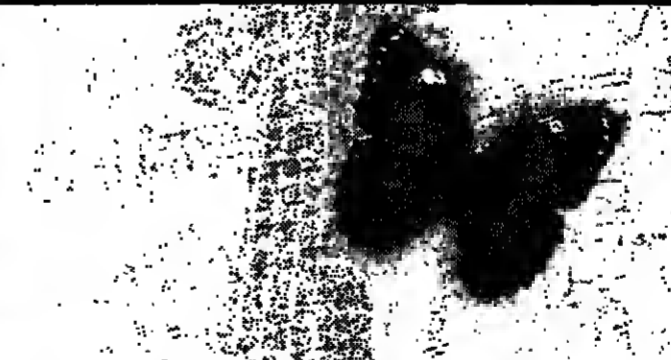
Beethoven	-	Egmont
Mozart	-	Divertimento
Sibelius	-	Finlandia
Gershwin	-	Rhapsody in Blue
Handel	-	Hallelujah

The opera, *La Boheme*, by Puccini, in a full production at the Technion, with soloists, orchestra and choir, will be shown on Matav Cable TV - Channel 9. Conductor: Prof. Dalia Atlas
Sunday, January 26 and Sunday, February 2, at 8 p.m.

Conducting Class
Registration has commenced for new students for the spring semester. Students with a broad musical education accepted for study under Prof. Dalia Atlas.

Verdi's Requiem
Professional singers interested in joining the Technion Choir for the performance of Verdi's *Requiem*, are welcome to register. The concerts will take place in June 1997.

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The Israel Camerata Jerusalem
Giving the Tone
Musical Director **Avner Biron**
The 1996-97 season

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Mozart Piano concerto in E flat major, K. 271
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Vaughan Williams
Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis
Brahms
Serenade no. 2, op. 16
Concert no. 2 in the Instrumental Series
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המגזין

SPORTS

Maccabi cakewalks over Charleroi

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

First, the good news: Maccabi Tel Aviv finally rounded a Euroleague opponent at Yad Eliahu last night, beating Belgium's Charleroi 87-70. The bad news? They should've won by 30 against a team that would have difficulty beating Yeshiva University on a bad night for YU.

going on at Yad Eliahu, and Maccabi went on a 16-2 run, paced by Johnson and Sheffer. Johnson, back after being sorely missed with an illness last week vs. Alba, was silky smooth in the first half, especially on offense, as the Pink Panther glided to the hoop for 14 of his game high 24 points.

the Belgians were in the process of being folded, stapled and mailed back to Belgium at 65-42 when their secret weapon took hold: boredom.

flurry towards the end of the game, but by then, anyone still at Yad Eliahu - and there weren't that many - could have cared less. The 87-70 final hardly reflected the vast difference in talent between the two clubs.

Newcastle goes public
Newcastle United, the latest Premier League soccer team to go public, announced plans yesterday to raise a stock market flotation of £100 million.

Court: Players made large deposits after loss
Soccer players in the Netherlands paid large sums of money to the court within three minutes of each other after their team lost 1-0 to the opposition in a match-fixing trial.

Sheffer resigns as 49ers coach
George Sheffer, who spent the last 10 years coaching the San Francisco 49ers, announced his resignation as head coach of the team.

Rodman kicks courtside cameraman

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - One moment he was the bustling, springing Dennis Rodman who fans admire. The next moment he was the reckless, unrepentant Rodman who also has become a liability.

groin. Amos was treated and released at the hospital, where he was interviewed by police. "We took an assault report, listing Dennis Rodman as the suspect here," Lt. Sharon Lubinski said.



Table with Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Pacific Division standings. Columns include Team, W, L, Pct, GB.

SCENE OF THE CRIME - Dennis Rodman stands over cameraman Eugene Amos after kicking him.

SCOREBOARD
NHL - Wednesday's results: Pittsburgh 3, Hartford 0; Buffalo 2, N.Y. Islanders 1; Los Angeles 3, Toronto 2; Ottawa 5, Washington 1; St. Louis 4, Phoenix 1; Colorado 4, Tampa Bay 2; Calgary 2, Anaheim 1; Edmonton 4, Florida 0.

Sampras, Courier struggle to advance; women's seeds breeze on through

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Former men's champions Jim Courier and Pete Sampras struggled for form in the Australian Open yesterday as the top women sailed into the third round.



GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT - Swiss tennis star Martina Hingis prepares to return service to opponent Lisa Raymond.

mother added her name to the injury list when she mysteriously collapsed here on Wednesday, also won through, although Italy's

Francesca Lubiani gave the world No. 5 a fright by taking the first set 6-4.

Hingis, a multi-millionaire at 16, said she played "almost perfect tennis" in the second set against American Lisa Raymond to triumph 6-4 6-2.

India fights to 233 for 3 on first day of third Test

Rahul Dravid and Sarav Ganguly combined for an unbeaten 133-run fourth wicket partnership yesterday to lead India to 233 for three on the first day of the third Test against host South Africa.

India needed a stroog start after losing the first two Tests, and the series, to South Africa. After winning the toss and choosing to bat, the visitors crawled to 100 for three until Dravid and Ganguly began their stand and piled up runs, helped by several drops and loose bowling by South Africa.

Stuart, playing in only his third one-day match for his country, dismissed Ijaz Ahmed, Mohammad Wasim and wicket-keeper Moin Khan in successive balls as part of a five-wicket haul.

India first innings
R Dravid c Richardson 12
S Tendulkar c Donald 21
S Ganguly not out 28
Srinivasan c McMillan b Cronje 28
Carr 14
Total (for 3 wickets) 233 - 90 overs.

Australia-Pakistan
Fast bowler Anthony Stuart claimed a hat-trick as host Australia salvaged some pride with a thrilling three-wicket victory over Pakistan in their World Series limited overs match yesterday.

World Series standings
Australia 3, Pakistan 2, South Africa 1, India 0.

Hapoel Tel Aviv still not sold

unable to decide on the sale. Not that there is a shortage of takers. A deal was just about to be signed on Wednesday night between the Histadrut and a group of investors from England represented by a former Hapoel player, Namrod Dreyfus. However, at the last moment, a new offer from a Haifa contractor arrived with an

undertaking to buy the club immediately. Dreyfus's offer is to take control of the club now, with an option to buy at the end of the season.

announced that Sinai, who has been a permanent fixture at the club for some two decades, first as a player and then as coach and manager, will end his employment at the club on Sunday, as none of the prospective buyers are interested in his services.

Sinai's golden handshake is said to be worth some NIS 2 million.

Ashkelon looks to stretch lead over Second Division rivals

Second Division leaders Hapoel Ashkelon take center stage for the second week in a row as they attempt to bolster their chances of gaining a promotion spot to the National League today.

Table with Hapoel Ashkelon, Hakoah Ramat Gan, Ironi Ashdod, Maccabi Netanya, Hapoel Bat Yam, Maccabi Kat Kana, Maccabi Kiryat Gat, Hapoel Ashdod, Hapoel Ramat Gan, Maccabi Acre, Beitar Tel Aviv, Ness Ziona, Maccabi Jaffa, Maccabi Yavne, Hapoel Kiryat Shmona, Hapoel Hadera.

abandoned fire station. In other fixtures of interest, bottom side Hapoel Hadera will try to escape the relegation zone when it takes on fellow-strugglers Maccabi Jaffa, while third-placed Ironi Ashdod travels to another side in dire straits, Hapoel Kiryat Shmona.

Rain eases drought

By DAVID RUDGE

The winter drought was broken yesterday, as rain accompanied by isolated thunderstorms swept over the country, causing flooding in many places and long delays on the roads.

Flash floods closed the road to the Dead Sea from Nahal Kidron southwards for part of the day, and flooding also effected low areas in the Judean Desert, the Arava, and the Negev.

Scores of road accidents were attributed to the weather, which included heavy early morning fog on many roads, especially on hills in the North.

Despite the disruptions, the heavy rainfall - which turned to snow on Mt. Hermon - was warmly welcomed by farmers and all those concerned about the country's depleted water resources.

The level of Lake Kinneret, which has remained stable for the past month, rose by two centimeters yesterday as a result of precipitation in the region.

"Rain after a such a long dry period is a blessing," said Shlomo Bahaloul, deputy director of the Lake Kinneret Authority. "It is somewhat late in coming but very welcome, and the answer to our prayers, given the state of the Kinneret until now."

"We have enough in the lake at the moment to meet requirements for the coming year, but that would bring the water level down to the low-level mark. We can only hope and pray that there will be more rain in the coming weeks to make up the deficit in the level of water in the lake at the moment," said Bahaloul. The weather also proved a boon



Anat enjoys Tel Aviv's first real downpour of the season yesterday.

(Israel Sun)

for the Mt. Hermon ski site at Neveh Ativ, which is to open today for the first time this season - a month later than usual.

By yesterday afternoon the snow had piled up to a height of over 30 cms at the peak of the mountain and more than 10 cms on the

lower slopes. Staffers said this is still insufficient for proper skiing, but hoped this would be the start of a cold, wet winter.

Two killed on roads in the North

By DAVID RUDGE

Two people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents during stormy weather in the North yesterday.

The first occurred around 6 a.m., when a mini-bus drove off a road in the Golan Heights and plunged over a cliff, killing the driver, who was alone.

He was identified as Alsaiyad Ahmed Hussain, 22, of Masa'ada village. The accident occurred on the road from Masa'ada towards

Kiryat Shmona at the turnoff to another Druse village, Ein Kniyeh.

Later in the afternoon, two vehicles collided on the road between the Golan and Amiad junctions, near the turnoffs to Migdal and Maghrar.

Police said a van collided with a car. The car driver, Haim Levy, 46, of Afula, was killed and two people in the van were lightly injured.

Yesterday's deaths brought to 32 the number of people killed on the roads so far this month - 16 of them this week.

WEATHER

Golan	5-8
Haifa	11-18
Tiberias	11-18
Afula	10-17
Samarita	7-11
Tel Aviv	12-17
Jerusalem	6-10
BeerSheva	7-18
Dead Sea	15-20
Ein	12-22

Forecast: Partly cloudy, slight rise in temperatures.
Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear, gradual rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather
Berlin	-05	05	clear
Calcutta	24	28	clear
Frankfurt	-01	05	clear
London	-01	05	cloudy
Moscow	-01	05	cloudy
New York	-01	05	rain
Paris	-01	05	clear
Toronto	-02	05	snow
Vladivostok	-02	05	cloudy

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Reform Movement discusses same-sex marriages

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Reform rabbis began deliberations yesterday on formalizing unions between members of the same sex.

Rabbi Yoram Mazor, executive secretary of the Council of Progressive Rabbis in Israel, said

yesterday that the group had undertaken to investigate the issue at the request of its American counterpart, the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The American group is due to discuss the issue at its annual conference in May.

Prof. Uzi Even, a spokesman for gay rights, spoke before the CPRI

yesterday in what Mazor said was a very preliminary discussion.

Mazor added that the issue is under discussion because it is a matter of public interest and because homosexual and lesbian rabbis in the Reform Movement had requested it be raised.

In the past, the CPRI has refused

to allow its members to conduct any sort of ceremony formalizing unions between members of the same sex, but it also has supported giving full rights to partners in such unions.

Mazor said that only in the Reform Movement could homosexual and lesbian rabbis openly express their sexuality.

Where are they running to?



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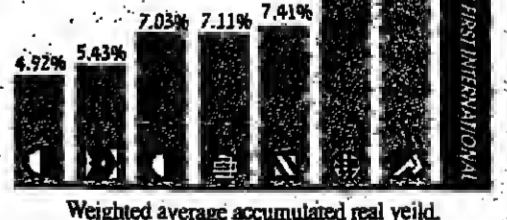
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Globes, Business Newspaper, January 1, 1997

■ "The First International Bank leads in Provident Fund performance. In a Five-year comparison of provident funds managed by the banks, the First International's funds showed a weighted cumulative of 11.63%..."
Yediot Ahronot, Daily Newspaper, December 29, 1996



■ A December 1996 comparison by Kranot Meida Zahav (fund rating company), concluded that the First International Bank topped the industry in provident fund yields for the past five years.

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